



General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/54/227
17 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 101 (b)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/589)]

54/227. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 37/248 of 21 December 1982 and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions on the promotion of cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community,

Commending States members of the Community for demonstrating continued commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation among themselves towards regional integration,

Noting the signing of Community protocols on wildlife conservation, law enforcement and health and the establishment of the Association of Southern African Development Community National Chambers of Commerce, as well as the adoption of a declaration on productivity, which are further steps towards enhancing regional cooperation,

Recognizing the strengthening of democratic governance and other positive developments, including the consolidation of peace, the enhancement of democracy and the respect for the rule of law in the region, through the creation of institutions to further regional integration, such as the Parliamentary Forum, the Electoral Forum and the Lawyers Association of the Community,

Reaffirming that the successful implementation of the development programmes of the Community can be achieved only if the Community has adequate resources at its disposal,

Noting that the effects of armed conflict, resulting in the loss of life and the destruction of economic and social infrastructures in southern Africa, demand the continuation and the strengthening of rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to regenerate the economies of the countries of the region,

Welcoming the Community's efforts to make southern Africa a landmine-free zone,

Noting with grave concern that adverse weather conditions have created a regional cereal deficit in 1999-2000, with a risk of increased poverty, in particular in rural areas,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the international community have made to complementing national and subregional efforts to advance the process of democratization, rehabilitation and development in southern Africa,

Reiterating that the primary cause of the present situation in Angola is the failure of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, under the leadership of Jonas Savimbi, to comply with its obligations under the Peace Accords,¹ the Lusaka Protocol² and the relevant Security Council resolutions,

Expressing its grave concern at the serious deterioration of an already dire humanitarian situation in Angola caused by the current conditions in the country, which is also hampering efforts towards economic rehabilitation and national reconstruction as well as regional development projects,

Expressing its satisfaction over the initiatives to bring peace to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, launched by the Community under the leadership of President F. J. T. Chiluba of Zambia, in collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and other entities,

Welcoming with satisfaction the signing at Lusaka, on 10 July 1999, of the Ceasefire Agreement³ by all parties involved in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a step forward towards a durable peace in that country,

Noting with concern the high prevalence in the region of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, which has far-reaching social and economic consequences,

Reaffirming the recognition of the important role that women play in the development of the region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁴

¹ S/22609; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1991*.

² S/1994/1441; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-ninth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1994*.

³ S/1999/815, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1999*.

⁴ A/54/273.

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Southern African Development Community;

3. *Appeals* to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue providing, where appropriate, financial, technical and material assistance to the Community in order to enable it to implement fully its programme of action and to meet the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the region and to advance further the process of regional economic integration;

4. *Calls upon* the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of so doing;

5. *Appeals* to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to assist and to support the Community in its efforts against landmines, and calls upon the States members of the Community to continue to strengthen their efforts in this regard;

6. *Also appeals* to the United Nations, its related bodies and the international community to assist the Community, with the appropriate resources, in implementing the programmes and decisions adopted by various United Nations world conferences, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process, and in this regard welcomes the establishment of the Southern African Development Community Women in Business Network, aimed at empowering women through, *inter alia*, facilitating and enhancing their access to credit and to training in business and technical skills;

7. *Appeals* to the international community to support the measures being taken by the Community in addressing human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, including proposals for key future actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;⁵

8. *Appeals* to the international community and to the United Nations system to continue to extend much-needed assistance to those countries of the Community that are engaged in the process of national reconstruction so as to enable them to consolidate democracy and to enhance the implementation of their national development programmes;

9. *Appeals* to the international community to comply with all relevant Security Council resolutions on Angola pertaining to sanctions imposed on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which, together with other efforts, would help to bring peace and to facilitate the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Angolan economy;

10. *Urges* the international community to take appropriate action, especially by providing humanitarian assistance, to prevent the suffering of the Angolan people, in particular children, women and the elderly, urges the Angolan authorities to continue to facilitate the assistance and the delivery of such assistance, and urges all other relevant parties to the conflict to do their utmost in this regard;

⁵ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

11. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the United Nations, to continue to contribute to the promotion of peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to assist in the rehabilitation and economic reconstruction of that country;

12. *Urges* all parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement³ to work towards its full implementation and to cooperate in this regard with the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity;

13. *Urges* the international community to continue to assist those countries receiving refugees in coping with the resulting economic, social, humanitarian and environmental challenges;

14. *Appeals* to the United Nations and the international community to assist in the strengthening of the region's capacity for sustainable water resource management and to respond generously with respect to the drought situation in southern Africa by supporting the region in its drought preparedness and management strategies;

15. *Calls upon* the international community to consider supporting the creation of special economic zones and development corridors in the Community, with the active participation of the private sector, while recognizing the responsibilities and the ongoing efforts of the countries concerned to create the necessary environment, including the appropriate legal and economic framework for such activities;

16. *Also calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Community to address the consequences, new challenges and opportunities presented to the economies of the region arising from the process of globalization and liberalization;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999*



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Agenda item 102

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/590)]

54/228. United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy

The General Assembly,

Recalling the decision taken by the Secretary-General in January 1996 to establish, in Turin, Italy, the United Nations Staff College project for an initial period of five years,

Reaffirming the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and to training based on an effective division of labour among the relevant institutions and bodies,

Noting, in this respect, the pertinent recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit,¹

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1999/271 of 28 July 1999,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the progress report submitted by the Director of the United Nations Staff College² on the activities undertaken so far by the College, in particular those aimed at strengthening the performance of the United Nations in the areas of economic and social development and international peace and security and promoting a common United Nations management culture;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the relevant technical, logistic and administrative contributions provided by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization;

¹ See A/52/559, annex.

² A/54/481.

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the relevant United Nations organizations and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the College, based on a full and independent evaluation of the implementation and the completion of the activities undertaken by the College, incorporating the College's corporate plan and programme of action, and including recommendations on the future status, funding and operations of the College after the conclusion of its pilot phase in December 2000.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/590)]

54/229. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997 and 53/195 of 15 December 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹ and the reflections of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the development and possible reorganization of the Institute,²

Welcoming the efforts towards consolidation of the restructuring process of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

¹ A/54/480.

² A/54/390, annex.

Noting that contributions to the General Fund of the Institute have not increased along with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and stressing the urgent need to address this discrepancy,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, and underlines the need for United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work;

2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States, and the relevance of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and, in this context, underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;

5. *Stresses* the need for continuity in the management of the Institute in order to ensure efficient and effective completion of the process of restructuring and revitalization;

6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to intensify its efforts to attract experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute, and stresses that the Institute's courses should focus primarily on development issues;

7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to address the discrepancy between the decline in contributions to the General Fund of the Institute and the increase in participation in its programmes;

9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider organizing events of the Institute at additional sites, including the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and to reduce costs;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute and with United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and means systematically to utilize the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;

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11. *Notes with appreciation* the services rendered by the Executive Director of the Institute in the light of the challenges emanating from the increased responsibilities encountered by his office;

12. *Renews its call* to the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses that are provided at no cost to States and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York, Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 103

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/591)]

54/230. Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/196 of 15 December 1998 and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/53 of 29 July 1999,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,¹ to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Expressing its concern at the exploitation by Israel, the occupying Power, of the natural resources of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

Aware of the additional, detrimental economic and social impact of the Israeli settlements on Palestinian and other Arab natural resources, especially the confiscation of land and the forced diversion of water resources,

Expressing the hope that the Middle East peace process, which started at Madrid on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973 and 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 and the principle of land for peace, will reach a final settlement within the agreed time-frame, and that final settlement will be reached on all tracks,

1. *Takes note* of the report transmitted by the Secretary-General;²
2. *Reaffirms* the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land and water;
3. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, to cause loss or depletion of or to endanger the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;
4. *Recognizes* the right of the Palestinian people to claim restitution as a result of any exploitation, loss or depletion of, or danger to, their natural resources, and expresses the hope that this issue will be dealt with in the framework of the final status negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides;
5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources".

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² A/54/152-E/1999/92, annex.



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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/592)]

54/231. Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/169 of 15 December 1998,

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities of globalization and interdependence,

Expressing its serious concern over the increasing risks of marginalization of a large number of developing countries from the globalization process, including in the finance, trade and technology sectors, and the additional vulnerability of those developing countries that are in the process of integrating into the world economy, resulting in particular from the volatility of short-term capital flows and the accentuation of income disparities within and among countries,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence are opening new opportunities through trade, investment and capital flows, and advancements in technology, including information technology, for the growth of the world economy, for development and for the improvement of living standards around the world,

Emphasizing that the international systems dealing with development, finance, trade and transfer of technology should further address the negative impacts of globalization on developing countries,

Expressing its grave concern over the generally widening technological gap between the developed and developing countries, particularly in the area of information and communication technology, which is shaping the contours of globalization,

Mindful, in the process of trade liberalization, of the diminution of trade preferential margins for developing countries, particularly the least developed countries and small island developing States, and of the need for countries to take measures, as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of the World Trade Organization, to address that diminution with a view to offsetting it,

Underlining the need to continue to work on a wide range of reforms in order to create a strengthened international financial system,

Recognizing the importance of appropriate policy responses at the national level by all countries to the challenges of globalization, in particular by pursuing sound macroeconomic and social policies, noting the need for support from the international community for the efforts of the least developed countries, in particular, to improve their institutional and management capacities, and also recognizing that all countries should pursue policies conducive to economic growth and to promoting a favourable global economic environment,

Underlining the importance of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy in order to enable them to take the fullest possible advantage of the trading opportunities arising from globalization and liberalization,

Underscoring the urgent need to mitigate the negative consequences of globalization and interdependence for all developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries,

Convinced of the need, in the context of globalization and interdependence, to develop and to implement policies to promote equity, transparency and inclusion, with the goal of promoting development, particularly of developing countries,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universal forum, is in a unique position to achieve international cooperation in addressing the challenges of promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Convinced that the United Nations has a key role to play in fostering greater coherence, complementarity and coordination in addressing economic and development issues at the global level,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Taking note also of the *Human Development Report, 1999*,² which focuses on globalization with a human face,

¹ A/54/358.

² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.III.B.43.

Taking note further, in the context of globalization and interdependence, of the ongoing work of the Commonwealth Secretariat/World Bank Joint Task Force on Small States,

Noting with appreciation that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its tenth session, to be held at Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000, will focus on "Development strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people",

Welcoming the decision of the Economic and Social Council to devote the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2000 to the theme "Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy",³

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting greater policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;
2. *Strongly stresses* that the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization should intensify their collaboration, as appropriate, in promoting policy coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic, financial, trade and development issues at the global level, which should aim at optimizing the benefits and minimizing the negative consequences of globalization, liberalization and interdependence, taking into account the specific vulnerabilities, concerns and needs of developing countries;
3. *Calls* for increased international cooperation to address the challenges of globalization through the enhanced participation of developing countries in the international economic policy decision-making process; integrated consideration of trade, finance, technology transfer and development issues by the relevant international institutions; and the continuation of a wide range of reforms of the international financial system;
4. *Calls upon* all countries, in particular the major developed economies, to enhance coherence among their financial, trade and development cooperation policies, with a view to creating an enabling international economic environment supportive of development, in particular of developing countries;
5. *Stresses* the importance, at the national level, of maintaining sound macroeconomic policies and developing effective institutional and regulatory frameworks and human resources, so as to realize the mutually reinforcing objectives of poverty eradication and development, including through national poverty reduction strategies and enhanced policy coherence;
6. *Urges* the international community to promote international development cooperation aimed at enhancing the participation of developing countries in the globalizing world economy;
7. *Also urges* the international community to adopt policies that promote equity in finance, trade and transfer of technology and address the problems of developing countries in the areas of external debt and transfer of resources, financial vulnerability, declining terms of trade and market access;

³ See Economic and Social Council decision 1999/281.

8. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre and other multilateral and bilateral efforts to help developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and, in particular, African countries and the least developed countries, in addressing their specific concerns within the globalizing economy, in particular through technology-related assistance in the fields of trade and policy, in the improvement of trade efficiency and policies and trade in services, and in electronic commerce;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

10. *Strongly underlines* the importance of an enabling environment for investment, in particular foreign direct investment, and of market access, governance responsive to the needs of the people based on efficient, participatory, transparent and accountable public service, policy-making processes and administration, an increase in the volume and effectiveness of official development assistance, tackling unsustainable debt burdens, including debt conversion measures and flexibility in the implementation of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative and, as recommended in the report of the Secretary-General,⁴ support for regional cooperation and integration as priority areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable development in African countries and to encourage the participation of all African countries in the global economy;

11. *Emphasizes* the technology-led dimension of globalization and the importance of facilitating access to and transfer of information and communication technology and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, to enable them to benefit from globalization through full and effective integration into the emerging global information network;

12. *Strongly emphasizes* the need for the regional and national capacity-building programmes of the United Nations system, the regional commissions, United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to have a strong component oriented towards assisting developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in the area of information and communication technology;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in close collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in consultation with other relevant organizations, a comprehensive report containing action-oriented recommendations on promoting further the role of the United Nations system in the transfer of information and communication technology to developing countries and also on its role in promoting policy coherence, complementarity and coordination on economic, financial, trade, technology and development issues at the global level in order to optimize the benefits of globalization;

14. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to convene, if possible, from extrabudgetary resources, a meeting of a high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology taking into account equitable geographical representation, and in consultation with Member States, to prepare a report, to be made available in early June 2000, containing recommendations on the role of the United Nations in

⁴ A/52/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998*, document S/1998/318.

enhancing the integration of developing countries in the emerging global information network, facilitating access for developing countries to information and communication technology, including access on preferential and concessional terms, where appropriate, and promoting the participation of developing countries, including through infrastructure facilities, in knowledge-intensive sectors of the global economy;

15. *Invites* countries, and other relevant entities in a position to do so, to provide the necessary extrabudgetary resources for the convening of the high-level panel;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 105

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/593)]

54/232. Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/107 of 20 December 1995 and 53/198 of 15 December 1998 regarding the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and all of its other resolutions relating to international cooperation for the eradication of poverty in the developing countries,

Recalling also the declarations and programmes of action of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the 1990s as they relate to the eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected group,

Expressing its deep concern also that efforts to reduce poverty have been severely constrained because of the slowing down of economic growth in developing countries, as a result of, *inter alia*, and, in particular, the 1997-1998 financial crisis and declining commodity prices, and noting that while some of the most visible effects of the crisis are being overcome in some regions and sectors, there is a need to sustain and to expand the momentum of recovery,

¹ A/54/316.

Recognizing that, while the process of globalization brings with it opportunities, it poses new challenges and risks for developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, at a time when they are intensifying their efforts to achieve sustained economic growth and directing their national policies towards the eradication of poverty through the implementation of comprehensive strategies, policies and programmes, including those with a long-term perspective,

Recognizing also that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized, others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, and there is increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing further that the combined effects of natural disasters, conflicts, entrenched poverty, disease, especially malaria and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome epidemic, and lack of proper education affect the economic prospects of, and efforts to eradicate poverty in, the most severely affected countries, especially in Africa,

Recognizing that, while it is the primary responsibility of States to attain social development, the international community should support the efforts of the developing countries to eradicate poverty and to ensure basic social protection,

Expressing its appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen further the efforts of international organizations, agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund within their respective mandates, as well as the efforts of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to implement measures and to take action to eradicate poverty within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

Noting with appreciation the debt initiative launched by the Group of Seven major industrialized countries at its meeting held at Cologne, Germany, from 18 to 20 June 1999, the decisions taken by the international community to assign priority to the eradication of poverty in the programmes and policy advice of the Bretton Woods institutions and the enhancement to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative introduced with a view to achieving deeper, broader and faster debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries,

1. *Reiterates that the main objective of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty is to achieve the goal of eradicating absolute poverty and reducing overall poverty substantially in the world through decisive national action and international cooperation;*

2. *Reiterates also the call for strengthened efforts at all levels to implement fully and effectively the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations and all agreements and commitments adopted at major United Nations conferences and summits organized since 1990 as they relate to the eradication of poverty, and, in this context, calls for specific action aimed at achieving tangible results through an output-oriented approach to attaining the objectives of the Decade as soon as possible;*

3. *Reaffirms that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and*

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policies that are conducive to its eradication by fostering, *inter alia*, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty, thus empowering them to participate in decision-making with regard to the policies that affect them, to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development, and to an efficient, transparent and accountable public service and administration;

4. *Stresses* the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and the necessity of meeting the basic needs of all, and, in this context, emphasizes the fundamental role in the eradication of poverty of strong and sustained economic growth that favours the poor, creates substantive expansion in productive opportunities and employment, increases incomes, promotes equitable income distribution and minimizes environmental degradation;

5. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting appropriate policy responses to the challenges of globalization at the national level, in particular by pursuing sound and stable domestic policies, including sound macroeconomic and social policies, in order to realize the objective of eradicating poverty;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate, as they deem appropriate, the recommendations made by the Secretary-General for possible action and initiatives for poverty eradication towards the new millennium² in the design and implementation of their national poverty alleviation strategies and to explore policies best suited to their national circumstances with a view to maximizing efforts aimed at poverty reduction and eradication;

7. *Reaffirms* that the causes of poverty should be addressed in the context of sectoral strategies, such as those on environment, food security, population, migration, health, shelter, the development of human resources, including education, fresh water, rural development and productive employment, and of the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve social and economic integration;

8. *Urges* the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief for developing countries, and emphasizes that the international community should consider further measures that would lead to effective, equitable, development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries so that they can share equally in the benefits of globalization, cope with its negative effects, avoid being marginalized in the process of globalization and achieve full integration into the world economy;

9. *Calls upon* all countries to formulate and to implement outcome-oriented national strategies and programmes, including setting time-bound targets for poverty reduction, and, in this context, notes the efforts being made to achieve the target of reducing by one half, by 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, which requires strengthened national action and international assistance;

² Ibid., sect. V.

10. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

11. *Calls upon* the developed countries to strengthen their efforts to achieve, as soon as possible, the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for the least developed countries;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of increasing the control of the poor over resources, including land, skills, knowledge, capital and social connections;

13. *Emphasizes also* the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes the generation of productive self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women, and therefore encourages Governments to adopt policies that support the development and capacity of microcredit institutions, and calls upon the international community, in particular the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and international and regional financial institutions involved in the eradication of poverty, to support and to explore the incorporation of the microcredit approach into their programmes and the further development, as appropriate, of other microfinancing instruments;

14. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and to facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries, by identifying and implementing practical steps to ensure the achievement of progress in this regard and to assist developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty in an era influenced in large measure by technology;

15. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education and training and basic education in the empowerment of those living in poverty, notes the importance of the world forum on education to be held at Dakar in April 2000, and invites the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, to propose measures aimed at enhancing the role of the United Nations system, including the World Bank, in helping Member States to provide effective and equitable education for all;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the United Nations system to assign priority to the eradication of poverty and to enhance coordination, and, in this regard, encourages those agencies of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and other partners in development to continue to support all Member States in carrying forward their own strategy for the achievement of the objectives of the Decade;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of agreeing on a mutual commitment of interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes, and welcomes the efforts made

to implement the 20/20 initiative,³ which emphasizes that promoting access for all to basic social services is essential for sustainable and equitable development and is an integral part of the strategy for the eradication of poverty;

18. *Welcomes* the Cologne debt initiative, launched in June 1999, which called for substantial additional financing, and recognizes the importance of fair burden-sharing among creditors and the recent decisions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative, which should provide deeper, broader and faster debt relief that will contribute to the reduction of poverty in a sustainable manner in those countries;

19. *Recognizes* the difficulties of highly indebted middle-income developing countries and other highly indebted middle-income countries in meeting their external debt and debt-servicing obligations, and notes the worsening situation in some of them in the context, *inter alia*, of higher liquidity constraints, which may require debt treatment including, as appropriate, debt-reduction measures that will assist them in their efforts effectively to combat poverty;

20. *Encourages* the continued examination in all relevant intergovernmental forums of ways and means to integrate poverty reduction objectives and strategies into discussions on international financial and development issues;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of measures, recommendations and activities relating to the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, including a thorough examination of the impact of globalization on the eradication of poverty, recommendations for possible action and initiatives for the eradication of poverty and proposals for better coordination of action taken by the United Nations system, as well as on the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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³ See A/51/140, annex.



General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/54/233
25 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 20

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.74 and Add.1)]

54/233. International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, which contains in its annex the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, and its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and 54/219 of 22 December 1999, and recalling Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1999/1,¹ which addressed the theme "International cooperation and coordinated responses to the humanitarian emergencies, in particular in the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development", and Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,² in particular in the context of the transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, humanity and impartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

¹ A/54/3, chap. VI, para. 5. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

² A/54/154-E/1999/94 and Add.1.

Emphasizing that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of the humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

1. *Expresses deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

2. *Stresses* that humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in accordance with and with due respect for the guiding principles contained in the annex to resolution 46/182 and should be determined on the basis of the human dimension and needs arising out of the particular natural disaster;

3. *Calls upon* States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, *inter alia*, by disaster prevention, including building regulations, as well as disaster preparedness and capacity-building in disaster response, and requests the international community in this context to continue to assist developing countries, where appropriate;

4. *Stresses* the need to strengthen efforts at all levels, *inter alia*, at the domestic level, to improve natural disaster awareness, prevention, preparedness and early warning systems, as well as international cooperation, in response to emergencies from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, bearing in mind the overall negative impact of natural disasters, the resulting humanitarian needs and requests from affected countries, as appropriate;

5. *Encourages* further efforts by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Inter-Agency Standing Committee members and other members of the United Nations system in promoting preparedness for response at the international, regional and national levels and strengthening the mobilization and coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system in the field of natural disasters, *inter alia*, through the effective deployment in all regions of the world and expansion of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination roster appropriately to include more representatives from countries of Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, bearing in mind that these representatives are funded by the participating countries;

6. *Also encourages* further efforts by the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen operational activities and capacity-building in natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness, taking due account of the evolving comprehensive strategy to maximize international cooperation in the field of natural disasters;

7. *Invites* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and concerned organizations, taking due account of the evolving comprehensive strategy to maximize international cooperation in the field of natural disasters, to strengthen their support to the United Nations disaster management teams which are dispatched upon request by host Governments and steered by the United Nations resident coordinator;

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8. *Recalls* the consideration of natural disasters contained in the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space,³ held in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999, and encourages further use of space-based technologies for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, noting in this regard, the establishment of the Global Disaster Information Network;

9. *Takes note* of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere, Finland, on 18 June 1998, and encourages States that have not signed the Convention to consider doing so;

10. *Welcomes* innovative efforts to link various phases of international assistance from relief to rehabilitation, such as the joint Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Children's Fund and World Health Organization and Pan American Health Organization Disaster Response and Recovery Mission undertaken in all countries affected by hurricane Mitch, and stresses the need to ensure adequate assessment of and follow-up to these approaches with a view to further developing and applying them in other disasters;

11. *Encourages* Governments, in particular through their disaster response agencies, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, to continue to cooperate appropriately with the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator to maximize the effectiveness of the international response to natural disasters, based, *inter alia*, on humanitarian need, from relief to development;

12. *Recalls*, in this regard, its request to the Secretary-General to solicit the required input further to optimize and disseminate listings of organizations of civil protection and emergency response at all levels with updated inventories of available resources to help in natural disasters, as well as information, including handbooks, that guide the international cooperation in responding to natural disasters;

13. *Stresses* that particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, regional and subregional capacities of developing countries for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, more efficiently and at lower cost;

14. *Notes* that the transition phase after natural disasters is often excessively long and characterized by a number of gaps, and that Governments, in cooperation with relief agencies, as appropriate, when planning for meeting immediate needs, should place these needs in the perspective of sustainable development whenever such an approach is possible;

15. *Stresses* the need to continue to provide adequate funds and to release funds quickly for natural disasters in order to contribute to a comprehensive recovery in the shortest time possible;

16. *Also stresses*, in this regard, that contributions for humanitarian assistance for natural disasters should be provided in a way that is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development or complex humanitarian emergencies;

³ A/CONF.184/6.

17. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General, contained in resolution 54/95 of 8 December 1999, to submit to the General Assembly, early in 2000, concrete proposals in order to enhance the functioning and utilization of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, and, in this regard, invites the Secretary-General to consider more active use of the Fund for timely and adequate natural disaster response;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General further to consider innovative means for timely and adequate natural disaster response, *inter alia*, through mobilization of additional resources from the private sector;

19. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2000, in the context of the follow-up to its agreed conclusions 1999/1,¹ to consider ways to enhance further the effectiveness of international cooperation and coordination in respect of the provision of timely and adequate humanitarian assistance in response to natural disasters;

20. *Invites* the Secretary-General to continue to consider innovative mechanisms to improve the international response to natural disasters and other emergencies, *inter alia*, through addressing any geographical and sectoral imbalances in such a response where they exist, as well as more effective use of national emergency response agencies, taking into account their comparative advantages and specialization, as well as existing arrangements, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance" with a view, *inter alia*, to contributing towards the comprehensive report on the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction to be submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999



General Assembly

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A/RES/54/234
25 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 46

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/54/L.75 and Add.1)]

54/234. The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the annex to which contains the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, its resolutions 48/214 of 23 December 1993, 49/142 of 23 December 1994 and 51/32 of 6 December 1996, on the mid-term review of the New Agenda, as well as its resolution 53/90 of 7 December 1998 on the implementation of the New Agenda,

Recalling also its resolution 53/92 of 7 December 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace in Africa,

Mindful of agreed conclusions 1999/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999,¹ on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the theme "Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development", and of Council decision 1999/270,

¹ A/54/3, chapter V, para. 6. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

Taking note of the deliberations of the Security Council at its meeting on the situation in Africa, held on 29 and 30 September 1999,² on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa³ and of the work of the Security Council on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on the development of Africa: implementation of the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council and the General Assembly, specifically the implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on Africa,⁴

1. *Welcomes* agreed conclusions 1999/2 adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1999,¹ on coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the theme "Development of Africa: implementation and coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system of initiatives on African development", and Council decision 1999/270;

2. *Requests* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in their respective areas and sectors to work towards the implementation of agreed conclusions 1999/2;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the Economic and Social Council to hold a high-level segment on Africa in 2001;

4. *Stresses* the paramount importance for the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, to be held in 2002, of an independent evaluation of the New Agenda that should include a thorough review of existing initiatives on Africa;

5. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-sixth session the modalities for undertaking the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda, taking into account the mid-term review of the New Agenda, agreed conclusions 1999/2 and decision 1999/270;

6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to establish the open-ended ad hoc working group to monitor the implementation of the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report to the General Assembly and the Security Council on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,⁵ to prepare for discussions at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

²See S/PV.4049, S/PV.4049 (Resumption 1), S/PV.4049 (Resumption 2) and S/PV.4049 (Resumption 3). For the final text, see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, 4049th meeting*.

³ S/1999/1008; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fourth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1999*.

⁴ A/54/133-E/1999/79.

⁵ A/52/871-S/1998/318; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1998, document S/1999/318*.

7. *Requests* that, in addition to monitoring the recommendations referred to in paragraph 6 above, the ad hoc working group monitor the implementation of agreed conclusions 1999/2 and of decision 1999/270, as well as poverty eradication, debt relief, the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and support to countries in post-conflict situations;

8. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session to establish the ad hoc working group, to serve as its ex officio chairman, to designate, in close consultation with Member States, two vice-chairpersons and to convene an organizational meeting of the ad hoc working group not later than March 2000 to decide on modalities and develop arrangements for the effective functioning of the ad hoc working group;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the ad hoc working group with all necessary assistance to ensure the accomplishment of its mandate;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*87th plenary meeting
22 December 1999*



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A/RES/54/235
24 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 99 (f)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/54/587/Add.6)]

54/235. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in 2001, as well as its resolution 53/182 of 15 December 1998,

Noting the progress made in the preparatory process for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Taking note of the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Statement on the South Summit adopted at the twenty-third annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77,¹ held in New York on 24 September 1999, and the Declaration adopted by the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries,² held in New York on 29 September 1999,

1. *Recalls* that the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will convene in 2001, welcomes the offer of the European Union to host the Conference in Brussels, and decides to accept the offer;

¹ A/54/432, annexes I and II.

² A/C.2/54/3, annex.

2. *Decides* that the meeting of the intergovernmental preparatory committee envisaged in paragraph 4 of its resolution 53/182 will be held in New York in two parts, in the third quarter of 2000 and the first quarter of 2001, each for five working days;

3. *Also decides* that the Secretary-General of the Conference will organize the three expert-level preparatory meetings provided for in paragraph 4 of its resolution 53/182 at the venues and for the durations deemed most appropriate in consultation with Member States;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to organize regional-level preparatory events in collaboration with the regional commissions and other relevant regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate;

5. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with relevant organizations and agencies, to organize well-focused sectoral, thematic and country-specific round-table meetings, as appropriate, during the Conference to contribute to its work;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations;

7. *Notes with appreciation*, in this regard, the initiative of the European Union to assist the least developed countries in their preparations at the country level through the assistance of their representatives in those countries, invites the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and all other relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to provide support to country-level preparations through their field offices in the least developed countries, and calls upon the development partners to support this preparatory process;

8. *Urges* the organizations involved in the implementation of the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance, including for Human and Institutional Capacity-building, to Support Least Developed Countries in their Trade and Trade-related Activities to intensify their support for efforts to assist those countries in enhancing their export supply capacity and trade opportunities and to integrate them into the multilateral trading system, and requests the Secretary-General of the Conference to ensure that information on progress in the implementation of the Integrated Framework is included in the reports submitted to the preparatory committee and to the Conference itself;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, together with their development partners, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as appropriate, to link the forthcoming round-table and consultative group meetings to the country-level preparatory process for the Conference and to ensure that those meetings make substantive contributions to the Conference;

10. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as convener of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the Conference, in particular at the country level;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene inter-agency meetings, as necessary, to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant institutions, for the purpose of carrying out preparations for and providing follow-up to the Conference;

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12. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make arrangements, on the basis of consultations with Member States, to facilitate the broad-based involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process and in the Conference and its follow-up;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take the necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other appropriate initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, including by highlighting its objectives and significance;

14. *Decides* to defray the cost of the participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the meetings of the preparatory committee and the Conference itself through the use of extrabudgetary resources, and, in the event that those resources prove to be insufficient, requests the Secretary-General to consider all other options, including the use of unspent balances from the regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997 as an exceptional measure;

15. *Calls upon* donor countries to provide financial support for the participation of the least developed countries in both the preparatory process and the Conference itself, and welcomes efforts already made to that effect;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Member States, to make the necessary arrangements, through redeployment and the use of other resources at their disposal, for the substantial strengthening of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries, through the provision of sufficient staff and resources, with a view to enabling it to organize effectively and efficiently the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the follow-up to its outcome, while satisfactorily carrying out its mandates relating to the least developed, landlocked and small island developing countries;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, taking into account the consideration of the matter at the forty-seventh session of the Trade and Development Board;

18. *Decides* that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will continue to provide the framework for national and international action for the least developed countries until the adoption of the next programme of action at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to the implementation of the present and future programmes of action for the least developed countries on a system-wide basis and in the context of the follow-up to all major United Nations conferences and summits as well as all forthcoming events, including the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the high-level international intergovernmental consideration of financing for development, including the preparatory process, and the Millennium Assembly;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

*88th plenary meeting
23 December 1999*